

FEDERAL CONVENTION ISSUE

# AMATEUR RADIO



Published in the interests of the Wireless Institute of Australia, Official Organ of all divisions of the W.I.A. and R.A.A.F.W.R.



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# AMATEUR RADIO

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## INDEX

Editorial .....	3	Victoria .....	19
The Diary of a Delegate .....	5	Queensland .....	23
QSL Bureau .....	11	South Australia .....	27
Correspondence .....	13	Tasmania .....	28
28 and 56 MC Notes .....	15	Station Description .....	26
Divisional Notes— N.S.W. ....	16		

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## EDITORIAL

Every member of our Institute is undoubtedly aware that the Federal Convention is being held in Sydney this month, but everyone does not know the special circumstances under which it will be held.

Some months ago the Institution of Radio Engineers (Aust.) approached F.H.Q. and mentioned that £200 was available to hold a Federal Convention during the 150th Anniversary celebrations, concurrent with the World Radio Convention organised by the I.R.E. This fine gesture of the I.R.E. was accepted and it was decided to finance the travelling expenses of a delegate from each state, plus a representative of the N.Z. A.R.T.

It is many years since we have had full representation from all divisions at a Federal Convention. Properly instructed proxies have been available, but to those who know conventions a visiting delegate is the only satisfactory medium for the transacting of business. With direct representatives attending this year from all States a unique opportunity is afforded the W.I.A. to consolidate its general organisation.

The personnel of the delegates also plays a big part in a successful convention; this year we are happy in our choice, a leading amateur from each State being available.

The N.S.W. secretary, VK2TI W. J. Ryan represents VK2; Vaughan Marshall VK3UK Victorian chairman of Council and Magazine Committee-man from VK3; the President of the Queensland Division from VK4. Arthur Walz, VK4AW; E. Barber VK5MD, late Federal Secretary, from VK5, while Western Australian and Tasmanian representatives respectively are G. Moss VK6GM, W.A. President, and J. Batchelor VK7JB, Tasmanian Q.S.L. Officer and Councillor. The New Zealand delegate is G. Petrie ZL2OV, late General Secretary and now President of the N.Z. A.R.T. The above gentlemen are named as official delegates and the Divisions can rest assured that their deliberations will be for the well-

being of the institute in general. They are all well-known amateurs and W.I.A. members and are competent to debate on matters pertaining to the game.

With 58 items listed for discussion, the most of their stay in Sydney will be taken up with business sessions, but besides that a suitable amount of time has been set aside to view Sydney during the celebrations.

The results and deliberations of the convention will be watched with interest by amateurs of the Commonwealth and we feel sure that with direct representation, with the personnel attending, and with the co-operation available, that the 14th Annual Federal Convention will be an outstanding milestone in the history of the Institute.

—The Federal Executive.

## The Men behind F.H.Q.

The Editor has, in view of the forthcoming Federal Convention, asked for a few pertinent remarks regarding the personnel of the retiring Federal Executive.

Since 1935 F.H.Q. has been located in Sydney and seven members have been co-opted on the Federal Executive.

These comprise Messrs. E. Colyer, 2EL; C. Bischoff, 2LZ; H. Caldecott, 2DA; R. Cohen, 2TF; P. Adams, VK2JX; M. Meyers, 2VN, and W. M. Moore, VK2HZ. The two first-named have since resigned, both having left Sydney. Neither one needs any introduction, both are renowned, 2EL for the speed of his dots, and 2LZ for the speed of his H.F. DX contacts. Both served in a number of positions on the F.H.Q.

The retiring personnel comprises 2HZ, President; 2JX, Vice-President; 2DA, Secretary; 2TF, Treasurer, and 2VN, Traffic and Publicity Officer.

Meeting every Tuesday and oftener when the occasion demands, business generally takes the last two hours, the first half hour being a free for

all regarding conditions or what have you.

The Federal President, W. M. Moore, 2RIZ, endeavours to keep order, he has a slight advantage insofar that he weighs as much as any other two members put together. An 830B or 210 p.a. is his method of disturbing the ether and at the moment he has a flair for rotating beams. When not worrying about the W.I.A., he worries about concrete for the local Water Board.

The Federal Vice-President, P. Adams, is chiefly known as an astute technical man and assumes the role of technical adviser to F.H.Q. A 35T not less than cherry red is his contribution to the din. His flair is his ability to hang flat top beams on chimneys that are just hanging themselves. His spare time is taken up delving in radio problems for a well known Sydney firm.

The one who does most of the work is the Federal Secretary, H. W. S. Caldecott, VK2DA, who writes those letters to all and sundry. Two separate 852's comprise his worm-warming device, and his flair is for stranded wire for zepp antennae. His radio problems also continue for 24 hours a day for a Sydney firm.

The Federal Treasurer, R. Cohen, 2TK, looks after the money and is general director of contests when not operating his 50T in the P.A. His specialty is to burn up porcelain standoffs with R.F. The daylight hours are spent as an analytical chemist making hard soap, not the stuff passed round at council meetings.

The last member is one M. Meyers, VK2VN, Traffic Manager, who generally keeps all skeds, and 802's in push pull are the tubes that make them. A liking for fast driving plus a desire to work many countries are his two main weaknesses. In his spare time he sells the cement that makes the concrete that the President worries about.

At the convention this month the personnel of F.H.Q. may vary from a concrete expert, a chemist, two radio experts, and a cement bargainer to the proverbial baker and candlestick maker; a typical cross section of the Ham game.

### Flash!!

## Federal Convention Results

Following is a synopsis of the decisions made at the Federal Convention that are of general interest to members of the W.I.A. It will, of course, be appreciated that the items mentioned are only a few of the total number discussed, many for obvious reasons cannot be published until after the appropriate action has been taken.

1.—That the matter of pedal transmitters causing interference in the amateur bands be taken up with the Department.

2.—That an interpretation be obtained from the Department regarding inductive interference with telephone systems.

3.—That Divisional Councils take steps to educate their members towards a reduction of interference, improvement of quality and announcing in phone transmissions.

4.—That investigations be made and appropriate steps taken to suppress the operation of commercial stations in the amateur bands.

5.—That harmonics of broadcast stations be logged and details forwarded to F.H.Q. for appropriate steps to be taken for their suppression.

6.—That the Department be asked to approve of the recommendation of the W.I.A. as sufficient in the application of a member for a 100 watt permit.

7.—That the Department be approached with a view to obtaining definite bands at 112 mc and 224 mc.

8.—In a discussion on the inclusion of Amateur Radio in the subscription of members, it was decided that the matter be left to the individual Divisions.

9.—That a reduction in the operating hours in contests be thought desirable.

10.—That Federal Headquarters organize an annual contest on the lines of the Fisk Contest.

(Continued on page 10.)

## The Diary of a Delegate

(By Vaughan Marshall, VK3UK.)

Before leaving for Sydney to attend the World Radio Convention and W.I.A. Federal Convention I decided that the only possible way to give a readable account of what took place was to write the highlights, day by day, in diary form. Hence the reason for presenting the following somewhat unconventional narrative.

**6th April.**—After a hot drive over from Melbourne with the thermometer around the 97 degrees' mark, Sydney seemed to give little relief and rain seemed to be needed quite as badly as in Melbourne. A ring through to 2DA and 2HZ, the Federal Secretary and President, brought a "where have you been" from each. It was explained that the Victorian Country Convention took place at Ballarat on the 2nd and 3rd and pressure of work precluded the possibility of leaving before the 5th. None the less it was unfortunate to miss the IRE Convention Banquet on the 4th and the official opening by the Duke of Gloucester, by radio-telephone, on the 5th. However, the intensely interesting address by Mr. J. L. Baird, "the father of television," on a general survey of television and the equally interesting discussion led by the chairman, Sir Ernest Fisk and others, was a good recompense. But first I should explain how the business sessions of the IRE World Convention are conducted. They are held in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney and on entering the hall it is possible to buy copies of the papers to be read during the session. The papers and ensuing discussion are put through the PA system and at the same time recorded, and most lectures are illustrated with slides thrown on a screen at the back of the platform. From a glance through the programme of sessions it seems that the whole gamut of radio and allied subjects will be traversed.

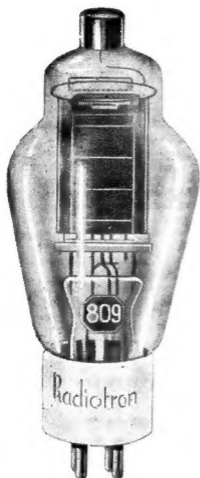
**7th April.**—At 9.30 a.m. I called at the Grand Central to pick up VK6GM, the only other delegate so

far in Sydney and we went out to the University together. VK6SA and VK6BB, who are also over for the Convention, were met for the first time. Our old friend, Mr. S. H. Witt, gave a very interesting paper on the PMG Research Laboratory. This was followed by a paper on UHF Telephone and Television equipment in which a description of the 30 KW UHF Television station at the Eiffel Tower was given. The coaxial cable up the Tower alone weighs twelve tons in this amazing piece of equipment. Whilst on the subject of high power also it is of interest to know that the Americans built a Poulson Arc transmitter at Bordeaux in 1917 of 1,000 KW input! This fact was mentioned in a historical account of the last twenty-five years in radio by Mr. A. S. McDonald, of A.W.A. The IRE Convention Ball was held in the evening at the Trocadero and from the glowing accounts given by VK2JX, VK2DA and VK6GM, it was a great success. Unfortunately I had another engagement.

**8th April.**—The "Awatea" with ZL2OV aboard was scheduled to berth at 8 a.m. and there was a big rush to get down in time. There is a regulation here which prohibits people from going on to the wharf until the ship is alongside and the gangways are down so a great deal of pleasure in having a "preview" of the passengers before the ship ties up is lost. VK2HZ, VK2DA, VK2RA, VK2VN, VK2JX and myself were on the spot and as the ship had a record passenger list and none of us knew ZL2OV we could only watch for a passenger coming down the gangway with that "vacant look" supposedly common to all Hams. However, "Pete" believed his Ham origin for we missed him and only met him finally at the alphabetically arranged luggage posts. Many and varied must have been the excuses offered to impatient bosses by the Sydney boys because none of them arrived at work before 9.45 a.m.

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## Amateur Radio

A harbor cruise followed by a visit to Taronga Park Zoo was on the programme for the day, but as I am a frequent visitor to Sydney golf was a greater lure for me. The long spell of dry weather finally broke and most of us got a wetting. It rains in Sydney in a different manner to Melbourne. In the latter city it seems as if old Pluvius uses a watering can, but becomes impatient when he gets up here and just upturns a bucket. VK2HZ and VK2DA had arranged a small "get-together" in the city for 5.30 and about fourteen Hams toasted the W.I.A. in the old traditional way. I went back home with VK2HZ for tea and spent a most enjoyable evening in his shack. It is one of the neatest I have seen and from the careful design of his equipment I am sure was not specially tidied for the occasion like so many of us have to. His main transmitter, with a line-up of 6A6, 6L6G, 830, has a front panel of Tilux and with its chromium plated fittings presents a very fine appearance. His stand-by transmitter has a 6L6 feeding a '10 and his receiver has a 6C6 feeding a 76. Both exhibit the same care of design and his 56mc equipment is a model of neatness. Of course the most novel feature of the shack is his automatic CQ machine which was described by him two months ago in "Amateur Radio."

9th April.—I again excused myself from the lectures because the great pageant and procession was to take place in the morning. I at least could get copies of the lectures that I missed. The procession, consisting of over one hundred beautifully designed floats costing over £30,000, was a truly magnificent spectacle and lived up to its description of the greatest procession of its kind ever held in Australia. The afternoon and evening were left free so I took the opportunity of running out to North Head to see the eight vessels, scheduled to leave that afternoon, pass through the Heads and buck into the big sea that was running. A road runs around the harbour side of the Head from Manly and is so situated that ships can be seen coming right up the Harbour and can be followed through the Heads and on, almost to the horizon. All one's baser instincts were brought out by the feelings of glee as one thought of the

unhappy passenger's feelings as their ship turned into the Heads and bucked into the first big rollers.

10th April.—VK5MD, the South Australian delegate arrived by the Express in the morning and VK4AW and VK4WT in the evening by boat, the former being the Queensland representative. The boat trip had been a wild one indeed and they had rolled in a sea, such as I had seen from North Head yesterday, all the way from Brisbane. In the evening the IRE had arranged a demonstration of "Dimensional sound," using the new Raycophone equipment. It took place at the Plaza Theatre and a special double channel land line had been laid across to the Regent and the Regent Theatre orchestra provided the music for the demonstration. The addition of the "dimensional" effect was remarkable and gave a natural quality the equal of which we had not previously heard in a theatre. A preview of "A Nation is Built," a picture depicting the growth of Australia in the last 150 years, completed a most interesting evening.

11th April.—A paper delivered by Mr. T. S. Skillman, of Holland, on Telephony and Programme Distribution by Carrier Current gave a picture of the progress made in Europe of Programme Distribution over "wires" as distinct from the "ether." In England alone over 250,000 people receive their programmes in this manner. Depending, of course, on the frequency either a loud-speaker or a radio set could be plugged into the telephone wires terminal to receive the programme. It was equally practicable to utilise the power wires for this purpose. I deserted the lectures in the afternoon in favour of the Agricultural Show and it was really worth missing a great deal to see. It is without a doubt the finest in Australia and the exhibits are quite unique, both from an artistic as well as a size standpoint. The two new buildings just recently completed, costing £137,000, are magnificent and have a larger floor area unbroken by any roof supports far greater than any I have ever seen. In the evening Dr. van de Pol, of Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken, Holland, delivered a paper on "Beyond Radio." Dr. van de Pol dis-

cussed some outcomes and results of pure radio research which effectively reach beyond direct radio applications and therefore often belong to the borderland of different sciences. He discussed first the subject of diathermy and then the measurement of Time and in this latter subject it is intensely interesting to note that recent experiments in comparing quartz oscillators and the revolutions of the earth show that Mother Earth is not as regular as has always been imagined, but "shows a frequency modulation with a period of one year and it is especially to be noted that both in June 1935, and June, 1936, the speed of revolution of the earth changed rather rapidly so that in about a month's time the length of the day varied by 0.004 seconds, this change of rate disappearing more or less regularly in the remaining part of the year." His next subject was headed Relaxation Oscillators, of which he says, "The general behaviour of systems performing relaxation oscillations can be described as being a periodic systems which, by their own movement, become periodically unstable." An example of explanation is a simple Neon tube circuit in which the tube is shunted by a condenser which is periodically charged by a battery through a resistance. The voltage across the neon tube builds up until the flashing potential is reached, the tube flashes over and then the cycle is repeated. But it is in the wide field that this principle can be applied that makes it of such interest, examples of relaxation oscillations including motorboating in audio amplifiers, whistling of telephone wires, the pneumatic hammer, the squeaking of a door, the reoccurrence of economic crises and epidemics, geysers and the beating of the heart, to name only a few. I am only sorry that space will not permit of giving far more than a rough sketch of a very outstanding and intensely informative paper.

## Opening of the Federal Convention

**12th April.**—As the lectures for the day concerned the broadcast engineer mostly I again deserted and spent the day golfing at Palm Beach. The evening brought our first official Institute function, the opening of the Convention. The opening ceremony took place at Science House and was performed by Mr. J. L. Baird, who was accompanied by Mrs. Baird, the other guests including Sir Ernest Fisk and General J. G. Harbord, who is the chairman of the Radio Corporation of America. After the Federal President of the Institute had introduced the visitors, Mr. Baird officially opened the convention and emphasised the value of amateurs in the field of research as they were actuated by no motive of gain. Sir Ernest Fisk thanked Mr. Baird for his remarks and said that, as a past president of the Institute, he was delighted to have the opportunity of speaking at the 14th Federal Convention. He gave details of the IRE award for the recent contest and congratulated VK7AB on winning. He asked the Tasmanian delegate to convey to 7AB the congratulations of the Convention. He suggested that amateurs could well experiment in the transmission of still pictures overseas as a stepping stone towards television experiments later. Mr. H. Peterson, VK2HP, the NSW Divisional President, welcomed the delegates and visitors and hoped that all would enjoy themselves in particular as the Convention coincided with the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

General Harbord replied on behalf of the overseas visitors and said that he brought greetings from the 50,000 amateurs of the United States. He affirmed the value of amateur radio in the progress of the science of radio and expressed the hope that some who were now only sailing the inlets would sail out on to the broad sea of research later. Mr. L. G. Petrie, ZL2OV, replied on behalf of the NZART and said how he and they appreciated the opportunity offered to enable him to attend the Convention. He pointed out how interlocked were the problems that

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## Amateur Radio

confronted Australian and New Zealand amateurs and the value of a discussion of mutual difficulties. I was asked to reply on behalf of the Australian delegates and expressed the appreciation of all divisions on the generous action of the IRE in enabling a delegate to be present from every State, and hoped that the Convention would be a memorable one in the history of the WIA. Mr. H. Peterson, VK2HP, then thanked VK2HF for his co-operation in making available his station to broadcast the proceedings on both 20 and 40 meters. The delegates then adjourned for the first session at which the minutes of the last Convention were read and adopted.

**13th April.**—The only Ham out at the lectures in the morning were 0BB and myself and on returning to the city at lunch time a search for ZL2OV, 6GM and 7JB proved fruitless. I was going to suggest a drive down the coast in the afternoon, but as 6BB wanted to go back to the University and the others could not be found I took my "mill" down to Dee Why and spent the afternoon on the beach with the roar of the surf in my ears typing these notes. The NSW annual dinner was arranged for the evening and over eighty Hams were present. Full details will be found in the NSW Division Notes.

**14th April.**—The IRE World Convention concluded to-day and some of the overseas visitors sailed for America on the Niagara. It is of interest to note that a bound volume of all the papers and ensuing discussion on each will be available shortly at the price of one guinea. So concludes an event that one cannot but feel has been a great privilege to have attended. This Convention, the only World Radio Convention ever held in the British Empire, has not only been of interest, but an education and an inspiration to all of us fortunate enough to have been present.

—The second business session of the WIA Convention was held to-night and as the total number of items on the agenda is 58, it was decided to have an additional session to-morrow. As a representative from every Division is present it is felt that this unique opportunity should be taken full advantage of

and that the discussion of every subject should be of the fullest.

**15th April.**—As no plans had been made for the morning and no delegate had been in bed before midnight since his arrival, I think all took the opportunity as I did and slept in! The hospitality of the N.S.W. Division and R.H.Q. has to be experienced to be believed. We made good progress with the agenda items this afternoon. There is no doubt that the value to the WIA of an actual delegate from each Division in the discussion of problems of vital interest to us all, is incalculable. The misunderstandings that may have arisen through the medium of correspondence are replaced by a mutual understanding each of the other's viewpoint. After the session most of the delegates went home with VK2VN for tea and then over to 2HF and 2HZ afterwards for an inspection of shacks. I have described the latter's and the former's will be fully described in the next issue.

**16th April.**—Whew! What a strenuous day. From 9 a.m. until 10.20 p.m. with just a break for lunch and tea we have sat around the council table disposing of the balance of the agenda items and general business. The one great consolation is that the results will far outweigh the effort expended, in particular as I mentioned yesterday in attaining a clear understanding of each other's problems and endeavouring to solve them for the good of us all. Tonight a theatre night had been planned, but as "Doc" Barbier, VK5MD, has to catch to-morrow night's train, a further session on Monday was out of the question. However, some of the wives went to the theatre together, so all the visitors did not miss the function.

It is with great regret that we learned that the Federal President could not stand for re-election to the position this year. Bill Moore has given of his best for three years and has ably filled the position he has held. However, his business must come first and I know every member of the WIA wishes him the best of luck in his studies.

**17th April.**—To-day was the last function of the Convention, a sports day arranged by the N.S.W. Division

at Wyong. This spot is seventy miles from Sydney and forms an excellent "half-way house" to which both Sydney and Newcastle hams can go without having to travel too great a distance. It is an ideal spot with excellent sporting facilities, a cricket ground, tennis courts, golf links and river all being very handy. About thirty-five hams, many with their wives, were there, and in addition to the delegates the visitors included VK4WT, VK3WH, and VK3UH. I spent the day on the golf links with 2HZ, 2JX, 2VN, 3WH, 2OC and ZL2OV. We formed a band of good golfers, fair golfers and—well—golfers. Dinner and tea were provided at the club house at which one of the star attractions was a "fruit machine" on which "Doc" Harbier was singularly successful. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, but our return was tinged with genuine regret that the 1938 Federal Convention festivities were over when we arrived home. VK6MD caught the evening express, VK4AW and VK7AB leave on Wednesday next and VK6GM and myself have until next week-end for a real rest before going home.

One feels it has been a real privilege to have taken part in this Convention, especially as it was part of the Sydney Sesqui-Centenary Celebration. The members of Federal Headquarters and the N.S.W. Division who were responsible for the organisation, are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts and to them all, we delegates extend our sincerest thanks.

(Continued from page 4.)

11.—That Federal Headquarters organise a 160 meter contest and New Zealand be asked to co-operate.

12. That each Division agree to a "gentleman's agreement" in contests in which phone stations remain off during cw contests and vice versa.

13. That Federal Headquarters co-ordinate the experimentation of the divisions on the ultra-high frequencies.

14.—That a trophy be awarded to the two members who first record a

56 mc two-way interstate qso over a distance of more than 200 miles.

15.—That the Federal Constitution be revised.

16.—That Federal Headquarters remain in Sydney for a further term of one year.

17.—That Federal Headquarters make an award in each state for outstanding operating procedure.

18.—That the 1939 Convention be held in Melbourne over the Easter holiday period.

19.—That the history of the W.I.A. federally be written.

It is of interest to note that the W.I.A. paid £16 as the Australian amateurs' contribution towards the expenses of the IARU delegates to the Bucharest Conference. This is yet another example of what the Wireless Institute of Australia does for member and non-member alike.

## WISCRACK.

First Phone Man: Say, ol' chap, would you like to hear my new variable gap crystal which will allow me to go from one end of the 40 metre band to the other?

Second Phone Man: That sure must be swell and very handy to dodge the QRM, and especially using crystal. Let's hear it.

(The first phone man then starts at 7000 kc's and tunes through to 7300 kc's, with the second phone man following him on his receiver. He then comes back to 7000 kc's.)

First Phone Man: Well, what do you think of my variable crystal, O.M.?

Second Phone Man: Real swell, but I have electron coupling here too if I want it.

(Heard at the Ballarat Convention by Roth Jones, VK3BG.)

## QSL Bureau

R. E. Jones (VK3RJ) Qsl Manager.

Dick Huey, ex VK2HU, now re-foices in the call sign of VK3UE. Only a brick wall separates him from the QRM foundry of VK3CX.

VK3DZ, late of Portland, Vic., after a 20 months' spell off the air, is now active from a Northcote QRA.

VK3HG bemoans the fact that his big genny has gone haywire. His signs down here are as usual despite the QRP.

Glad to hear from Mac, of VK3XZ/3UL, who says that 3UL's increased session limits the time available for ham radio. Murray Clyne, VK3HZ, of the same location, spent his leave in Warrnambool and Sydney, his relief being Harry Fuller, VK3HF of 3SR.

VK3KP, Randall Eyre, has returned after almost a year's sojourn in Europe. Someone kept your call sign evergreen during your absence, O.M.

The secretary of "Radio Liberte," a new French Amateur Association, requests Qsl Managers to send all cards endorsed "Via E.R.L." to 5 Avenue de la Republique, Paris XI.

VK2AGZ, ex VK5RY, was due to pass through Melbourne en route to VK5 during April. Spare time at his disposal was to be sent on a run to Yallourn.

Roth Jones, VK3BG, with a WSJK beam on the U.S.A. and a new rig under way desires speed contacts when DX is off.

Old friend Erich Kohout, HB9AT (ex UO—well, never mind) pops

up from a new Qra at Zurich. Erich smelt trouble in Austria, and over 6 years ago prophesied the present events when departing for Switzerland.

Jack Morris, VK3DQ, has forsaken 175 mx fone for 20 mx C.W. Jack is fiekled at receiving a Qsl from VK3OA, ex VK2OA, just 4 years 2 weeks 20 minutes after the QSO took place.

Cards for the following await collection at the Bureau, 23 Landale Street, Box Hill: — 3AB, AH, AP, BE, BN, CA, CC, CU, DJ, DZ, FA, FK, FM, GM, GP, GV, HB, HE, HP, IG, IL, IR, JD, JM, JS, KC, KM, KO, KY, NA, NH, NC, NG, NI, NP, OU, PC, PH, PN, QR, SE, SF, SO, ST, SZ, TB, TT, TW, TY, US, UN, US, VB, VM, VW, VX, VY, WR, WW, XA, XD, XE, XU, XV, YA, YG, YS, YT, ZG, ZJ, ZL, ZX, ZZ.

## TRANSMISSION SCHEDULES.

**MAY, 1938.**

### VK6ME SYDNEY.

Sydney Time. G.M.T.

#### Sundays.

4 p.m.-6 p.m. .... 0600-0800  
8 p.m.-midnight .... 1000-1400

#### Mondays.

1.30 a.m.-3.30 a.m. .... 1530-1730

### VK6ME MELBOURNE.

Melbourne Time. G.M.T.

Nightly, Monday to Saturday  
(inclusive)

7 p.m.-10 p.m. .... 0800-1200

### VK6ME PERTH.

Wavelength 31.28 metres (9590

Kc/s.)

Perth Time. G.M.T.

Nightly Monday to Saturday  
(inclusive)

7 p.m.-9 p.m. .... 1100-1300

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M.W.I.A.

## Correspondence

### "PHONETICITIS."

The Editor "Amateur Radio."

Dear Sir,

This "B Boston-D Denmark-M Montana" business that has crept invidiously into the ranks of amateur radio. (phone) during the last year or so, is being carried to extreme and utterly ridiculous limits. The use of phonetics dates from the earliest days of speech transmission and perhaps the most useful form of communication is the phonetic code used in military practice. Who, for instance, is not familiar with the fact that "Ack Emma" means "A.M." or morning? A famous war-time institution is known to all and sundry as "Toe ti," standing as it does for the letters T.H. signifying "Talbot House." The military system of phonetics used in speech is the most suitable ever devised, being short and straight to the point. During military operations, for example, no telephonist, especially in a tight corner, would appreciate having to draw out lengthily an urgent message by using phonetics such as A for Alabama, B for Buenos Aires, C for California, when in a swiftly understood flow of speech he would merely say "Ack, Beer, Cork" and the fellow at the other end would know beyond doubt that what was communicated was "A, B, C". Admittedly there is not the urgency of military tactics about amateur radiophone, but there is a state of affairs in amateur procedure

which, being patently ridiculous, needs correction. The station doing the initial calling is reasonably right to adopt phonetics when announcing his call sign. For instance, W6ITH may call "CQ DX, W6ITH calling—I India, T Turkey, H. Hungary." All well and good; he intends that the DX will make no mistake about his call letters. But where is the sense, once he is QSO with a VK, for that VK on each and every over to reply to W Six I India, T Turkey, H. Hungary? Surely the plain W6ITH is good enough—with the two stations in established contact? Why not "VK 'so and so over to W6ITH" in plain letters? W6ITH doesn't need to be reminded of his phonetics when he knows full well that the VK is replying to him and nobody else. So many VK's persist in doing this kind of thing, and the inference drawn is the logical one that those VK's who indulge thus have obviously no confidence in their own speech systems or microphones! Apart from which it wastes a lot of useful time on the air. Much of the present day phone QSO's are nine-tenths occupied by the phonetic introduction and the actual text of conversation is so much hurried that it amounts to little or nothing of value. Then again, there is another evil in the use of phonetics in the form of names of countries. If a station in some part of the world stresses that he is—Honolulu—England where his last two letters are HE and signal strength is down, plus QRM, the odds are that a DX man catching the latter part imagines that that was a station in England. It all adds to the confusion and amateur radio is confusing

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enough since this DX phone turmoil was let loose on the world. Anyway, it will probably remain as it is until amateur radio hangs itself from the highest tree, for even the B.B.C. says "B for broadcasting and Q for Ocean." Even so, once the programme is under way, it becomes plain "London Calling"!

"OLD HOMBRE."

(While we agree with the opinion expressed by the writer we would remind our readers of the phonetics prescribed by the P.M.G.'s Department for phone use.—Ed.)

40 Grant Street,  
East Malvern, S.E.5,  
13/3/38.

The Editor "Amateur Radio."

Dear Sir,

May I make a plea for frank reports. I have recently been "having trouble with the Vigilance Committee" in regard to my 40m. phone. During the time I was unknowingly causing this QRM, I worked numerous stations both interstate and within half a mile of my shack, yet it was from only one station that I had a report that indicated in any way that my signals were not FB. After getting the said report I sat up and took notice, but in a few days I received a report from the V.C. to say my sigs had been poor for three weeks, and I contend that during this period the reports I received were inaccurate and misleading. When one is not in a position to adequately criticise any point in a signal may I suggest that he should say so. And further, that if operators can't criticise each other's signals in a frank and, if necessary, destructive manner without fear of offence, then the whole enormous value of reporting is lost.

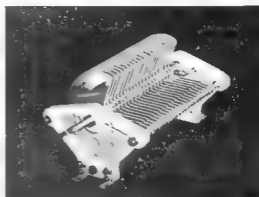
J. P. BOYD, VK3PB.

## TRANSMITTING CONDENSERS

These Condensers will be on display at the Institute on the First Tuesday in April.

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## 28 and 56 M.C. Notes

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A. Pritchard, VK3CP.

The W phone contest is over and many VK's had excellent phone qso's with the lads in the States; VK3XP one afternoon had 5, r8, VE5 phone qso's in a run; also VK2IQ, 2UD, 2ADT, 2NY, 3ZZ, 3IW, 3NP, 3ZB, 3EN, 4HR, 4VJ, 4RY, 5FM, 5LD, 5LJ, 6AF, 6SA, have good quality phone and are doing well with the W's. The skip has shortened making a qso possible with the majority of VK's and ZL stations. At the time of writing, 13th April, the Europeans have faded out, giving us only an occasional qso from that part of the globe. April, ten years ago, 3YP (then 3CP between 1926-29) had an exciting time by working the first DX qso to the States. April, 1938, more excitement! Patta celebrated the above by getting married. 73 from the gang!!! Sunday, 20th March, TIFG, TI2RC, VP3VN, LU7AZ, LU1DJ, XE2BJ, PY3BP (qso VK2NY?), KK7PQ, J2MI had exceptional strength during the morning—OK1BC, ZS1AN were qso'd here at 3CP at 6.30 p.m., r7 both ends. The New Zealand stations have been very active of late—ZL1BT, 2AU, 2BI, 3DJ, 3KZ, 4FK, 4GM being consistently active. ZL's 4FK, 4GM, and 3KZ are r maximum whenever heard. VK3BQ has the largest swag of Europeans and Max has been kept busy. His most outstanding qso was on Saturday morning, 29th March, at 8.45 a.m., with G6GO on fone 28040KC, r6 each end; G2VG was heard earlier and was using only 35 watts input; at 9 a.m. G2MB, also VP3NV—Europeans have never been heard before at this time. Sunday, 20th March, LU5AN was r9 plus at 8.45 a.m.; the same evening OK1BC using a single 35T final and 50 w input, was heard, together with D3DSR, OH5NF, YU7MM at 8 p.m. G2DH reported hearing many VK's who are on at 7 a.m. our time. F8LX and SV1CE phones r6 were heard between 8 and 9.30 p.m., and G2VG, G2YP, GM8MJ, GM8FR were on cw. Monday, 21st

March, LU5AN, LU7AG, LU1DJ had good strength around 9 a.m.; the same evening PAOFB r5 phone, ON4ZA r6 phone, F8ZF r6 phone, and ON4PA r6 phone were heard until 10 p.m. at 3BQ. W7EMP at Walla Walla made WAC twice between 19th and 20th March with a new set of stations each time, VK3XP supplying one Oceania qso. The KA's have good strength on phone and KA1ZL, KA1ME and KA1AP have been interesting 10 mx qso's, together with K4SA, 1V5AK, PK1JB (20 mx harm?), K6BAZ, which are heard occasionally. VK3XP has made extensive improvements all round, especially the antenna which has 8 half waves in phase (2, 8JK's in series) and mounted on a lattice mast, the antenna proper being strung between a gondola system which is rotatable (Radio 8JK's system). The modulator has been rebuilt, a Rola permanent mike giving excellent quality into a 57, 53 elements connected in parallel, 42 driving a pair of 6L6G's in class ab. VU7AR was was qso'd here at 3CP and VU2FV was heard on Sunday, 10th April, at 7.30 p.m., the former has a T7 signal and is on the look-out for VK's. ZS1AN, ZE1JJ, ZS5U, ZS6A, ZS6TG are usually on each Sunday evening between 6 and 7.30 p.m. VK3ZX has been heard on 10; he has a very nice 20 mx rotary 8JK in operation and any lads wanting a few ideas, they are there. W5GAE and W5EIS portable have punch at 7.30 a.m., the former with PPT200 mod by class B 204A's! and the latter portable!! with PP250TH and mod by similar tubes—what a waste—but what a portable! There are many Japs still on the air—J2KM, J3FJ, J2MI, J2JJ, J2KN being often heard over the week-ends. W6HUM is one of the few using a class A mod., i.e., a single 845 Sylvania modulating a PP 801 final. No 56 mc information has been sent to me, any CC on the way?—73.

## Divisional Notes

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To ensure insertion all copy must be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 18th of the month preceding publication.

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### N.S.W. Division

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D. Reed, Secretary, VK2DR, Box 1734 JJ, G.P.O. Sydney.

#### Country Zone Officers.

Zone 1 (Far West).—J. Peroos, VK2PE, Hope Street, Bourke.

Zone 2 (North-West).—H. Hutton, VK1HV, Byron Street, Inverell.

Zone 3 (North Coast).—R. J. Berry, VK2NY, 54 Bacon Street, Grafton.

Zone 4 (Hunter River and Coal-fields).—R. W. Best, VK2TY, 57 Hunter Street, Newcastle.

Zone 5 (South Coast and South-West).—R. Ross, VK3IG, 673 David Street, Albury.

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#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:—President, H. Peterson, VK2HP (re-elected unopposed); vice-presidents, F. Goyen, VK2UX, W. G. Ryan, VK2TI; hon. secretary, D. Reed, VK2DR; hon. treasurer, F. P. Carruthers, VK2PF; hon. solicitor, C. d'A. Roberts, VK2JV; country representative, O. G. Chapman, VK2OC; council, H. Ackling, VK2PX, M. Lusby, VK2WN, R. A. Priddle, VK2RA; QSL officer, J. Corbin, VK2YC.

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#### W. T. S. CRAWFORD TROPHY.

The final heat of the W. T. S. Crawford Trophy for 1938 was held at the Radio Inspectors' Office on Monday, 11th April, and was won this year by Mr. A. Henry, VK2ZK, well known as the head of the R.A.A.F.W.R. in this State. It will be remembered that Mr. Crawford,

the senior radio inspector, presented this handsome trophy last year for competition amongst the amateurs of N.S.W., the object being to improve the general standard of operating. That this is being achieved is quite noticeable if one listens to the operating heard on our bands, and we are indebted to Mr. Crawford for this practical evidence of the keen interest he takes in the welfare of the amateur. Mr. Crawford has worked hard to make the competition a success, and he personally conducted the preliminary and final heats, as well as a practice for the finalists at which he gave much valuable advice on operating procedure.

There were twelve participants in the final, including one country ham (VK2PN), who travelled over 250 miles to participate, last year's winner (VK2RA) and quite a number who participated in last year's final. Mr. Henry is to be congratulated on a very fine performance, as the general standard was high, whilst his was outstanding in both sending and receiving. A pleasing feature of the contest was the presence in the final of several of the newer hams as represented by those with 3-letter calls. This should be an incentive to the newer men for next year's competition.

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#### ANNUAL N.S.W. DINNER.

The Annual Dinner has been and gone, leaving behind it one or two sore heads and many happy memories. Never before have we been honoured with the presence of so many visiting hams and distinguished guests. The usual friendly ham spirit prevailed and city members intermingled with country, interstate and overseas men, swapping yarns, describing the favourite beam, and mak-

## Amateur Radio

ing new friendships. As a result contacts over the air with our newly made friends will have greater significance for us in the future. The more formal parts of the evening could not entirely suppress the general feeling of good-fellowship, and we might sum up by saying that a good time was had by all.

We were greatly honoured by the presence in the chair of the Rt. Hon. J. M. Dunningham, M.L.A., minister-in-charge of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations—practical evidence of his and the State Government's interest in our convention. Mr. Dunningham in welcoming the delegates and visitors, eulogised the work being done by the amateur and stressed the value of the amateur training as a national asset.

The divisional president, Mr. H. Peterson, proposed the toast of the P.M.G.'s Department, stressing the thoroughness with which the Department's motto of "speed, efficiency and courtesy" is carried out. Mr. V. Butler, Deputy Postmaster General, responded and in doing so mentioned the willingness of his Department to help the amateur in any way possible. Mr. W. G. Ryan then proposed the toast of the Senior Radio Inspector, Mr. W. T. S. Crawford. During his term of office as secretary, Mr. Ryan met Mr. Crawford on many occasions and always found him sympathetic and eager to help the amateur movement. In replying, Mr. W. T. S. Crawford emphasized what a year of progress last year had been and quoted some interesting figures on amateur matters. On 1st February, 1938, 1859 amateurs had been licensed in Australia, the total for N.S.W. being 711. During the year ending 31st March in N.S.W. 91 breaches of the regulations had been examined, 10 per cent. had definitely proved that they were not on the air at the time of the breach and during that period three unlicensed stations were apprehended, the maximum fine imposed being £20. 177 people had sat for the A.O.C.P. examination in the same period and 85 had passed. In conclusion, Mr. Crawford said he hoped that the W.I.A. Convention would be the most successful yet held.

Mr. Crawford then presented his trophy for the best amateur tele-

graphist in N.S.W. to Mr. A. Henry, VK2ZK, who also receives a replica of the trophy. In making the presentation, Mr. Crawford referred to the particularly high standard of operating shown by Mr. Henry. Mr. Henry responded, and in doing so congratulated the Institute on the efficient manner in which the competition was conducted.

Mr. L. G. Petrie, ZL2OV, in proposing the toast of the Wireless Institute of Australia, referred to the early origin of the Institute—one of the oldest amateur organisations in the world—and also to the high esteem in which the W.I.A. is held both in New Zealand and in other parts of the world. Mr. W. M. Moore, Federal President, and Mr. H. Peterson, Divisional President, responded.

Mr. Peterson then made a presentation to Mr. W. G. Ryan, the retiring secretary. Mr. Peterson explained that owing to the pressure of private business Mr. Ryan was reluctantly compelled to relinquish the post of secretary, which had on many occasions interfered with his own work. Mr. Peterson gave a resume of the advances the Division had made during Mr. Ryan's term of office. The finances have improved to the extent of approximately £100, two successful Amateur Radio Exhibitions have been held, the monthly Divisional Bulletin instituted by the retiring secretary has kept members, and especially country members, in much closer touch with events. Prior to this the country members knew very little of what was being done in the Division. There have been many other examples of the untiring energy shown by Mr. Ryan, and much of the 75 per cent. increase in membership may be attributed to his work. To show his versatility, VK2TI has participated in all the major contests during the past year, and in that time has been successful in coming within the first three places in the BERU, DJDC and ARRL Contests—a very fine record.

Mr. Peterson then referred to the part that Mrs. Ryan has played, by taking a great interest in the activities of the Division, and also by assisting on very many occasions with the preparation and mailing of circulars, bulletins, etc. In view of this constant encouragement it was

## Amateur Radio

particularly fitting that the presentation made by Mr. Peterson on behalf of the Division should be suitable for Mr. Ryan's home—a silver coffee service. The applause which followed the presentation was sufficient proof of the popularity of Mr. Ryan with the members.

Mr. Ryan thanked the Division for himself and for Mrs. Ryan, and expressed regret that he was unable to continue as secretary.

The toast of Kindred Societies and Affiliated Radio Clubs was proposed by Mr. F. M. Goyen, vice-president, and Mr. M. Lusby proposed the toast of the Press.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and all voted the 1938 dinner a great success.

### WAVERLEY RADIO CLUB NOTES.

Our 19th Annual Reunion took place on Tuesday, 29th March, and was attended by 50 visitors, the majority of whom were hams, so that the local QRM should have been absent on the bands on that particular evening. A feature of the evening was the presentation to the Club by Mr. J. Moyle (2JU), on behalf of "Wireless Weekly," of two replicas of the Wireless Weekly Cup, won by Waverley in 1933 and 1937.

"Old-timers" present included Mr. Peterson (2HP), Mr. Luckman (2JT), and Mr. Malcolm Perry (a former President and foundation member of the Club), and several

cerning the early days of amateur radio.

### NORTHERN ZONE NOTES.

VK2KK.—Where are you these days, Matt? As we don't hear much of you. Get that rig going and let's hear you on 80 metres.

VK2KE. We hear you now and again, Bill, but that's not good enough. Keep the tubes warm this winter, and be amongst the boys.

VK2KZ.—On regularly nearly every night on 20 metres, trying Jones regenerative oscillator, getting ready to go to 10 metres, using 6L6G and 807. Has anyone built the Jones Super-Gainer Two? If so, drop 2KZ a line.

VK2YO.—You're fairly consistent on 40 metres, George. We'll be interested to see you get your 6L6G tritet going with the 807 buffer-doubler on 20 metres. W.A.C. will become easy on 20 metres, O.M.

VK2XT.—Very sorry to lose you from this zone, Bill, as your qra is now in Newcastle, but we hope you will be as active in Newcastle as you were in this zone.

VK2DG.—The most active man in the north is Keith of 2DG, and uses 10, 20, 40 metre band, but is a DX crank on 20 metres, and if you want to know anything about 20 metre DX, just give him a call; he also supplies DX notes to VK3MR, so if you have any DX notes send them to 2DG.

VK2YL.—Another DX crank who does not know when to say bedtime is Harry; uses all bands, but likes

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20 metres, on regularly like 2DG. All the boys from Kurri will be visiting you shortly O.M.

VK2PZ.—Do not hear so much of you, Chris. We will be visiting you also after Easter.

VK2CW.—Here is a trier, Bill of 2CW, unfortunately out of work, but always trying to do some good for radio, on regularly on 40, 80 metres, good ragchewer.

VK2CX.—Where are you these days, Jack? We never hear you. I guess it's YL's, but you will be in our visit, so look out. Paxton is a long way from here, but will get to see all right on trip.

## ZONE 5 NOTES. (By VK2IG)

We are indeed pleased to note that the proposed reformation of 2UO, the Wagga Club, is an established fact, and the committee is as follows:—President, 2MP; Vice-President, 2AFF; Secretary, 2AEO; Treasurer, 2AIB; and committee man, 2AID. We all wish the Club the success it deserves, and are sure that it won't be for lack of energy or co-operation if this success is not achieved.

2YW had a pleasant thought, and put it to the club as follows:—Ex-treasurer of old 2UO, Bob Smith, is unfortunately permanently disabled as the result of an accident to his spine, and an endeavour is to be made to obtain a ticket for him to make his lot brighter. This is surely a commendable object, so what say, you H.Q. chaps? Bob's address is Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill.

Dry and fine conditions are helping to keep the hams out of doors and away from their rigs in this zone though with the W's coming through in good style the fone lads are getting busy.

VK2OJ has resumed his W skeds and trying to line up his antennas on U.S.A. A card received this week from Portugal dated early in '36 offers to swap a bottle of Old Porto wine for a bottle of good Australian plonk!! That is the ham spirit!!

VK2AP.—Has his rig gg now, but is not too good yet, as only gets R8 on fone from W. We hope he soon locates the bother. Hi! Hi! Using two halves in phase.

VK2QE.—Pretty busy, but gets on to the W's ok. Little other DX on. Got a couple of nice cards in K6TE from Wake IS.CT1 in Portugal. YM4AA and CX. Fb. Alan.

VK2EU.—Troubled with bad motor boating. Not in his rig, but on the Hume Weir, in fact, it appears the boat doesn't like the water as it tried to get to land by the shortest way, i.e., straight down!!

VK2VK.—Works the locals and gets R8, etc., on a couple of watts. Seems Hughie is the only contact Albury has with VK hams, hi!

VK2AFD.—Wants someone to build him a rig as too QRL. Of course, they must supply the parts. Oh yeah!

VK2IG.—Still rebuilding and waiting on an xtal that seems to be roaming around VK. Cards to hand from U9 and ST.

## Victorian Division

### PHONE SECTION NOTES. (By 3CB and 3FL)

There was a good attendance at the March meeting of this section, but unfortunately some of the members had to adjourn before the lecture which is now given on some item of interest at each meeting.

3FW made his first appearance for some months, as Bill is not often able to attend in person owing to night work. Owing to 3JB having to attend his staff ball the lecture he was to have given on short wave work was postponed until the next month, so we shall be looking forward to some interesting information at the April meeting.

Ivor 3DH filled the breach, and delivered an interesting lecture and a demonstration with the aid of lantern slides. Quite a few of the boys are going to holidays at the Easter week-end, so that there will be a chance for a few extra sessions for the ones who are staying in Melbourne.

Chas. 3BH at Mornington has been making a noise on 236 mx the last few week-ends, and been calling for ZL reports. Well, if his signal at Canterbury is anything of an example of the ZL strength he'll need

## Amateur Radio

a secretary to handle the mail. In fact, he's been seriously heterodyning 3FL in the suburbs although supposed to be 20 kc. away so somebody's crystal has walked. However, there is to be a check on the frequencies to clear that bother. There does seem quite an improvement in all signals on the 200 mx band since the increase to 50 watts in quality as well as strength.

### KEY SECTION NOTES.

(By VK3HK)

At the meeting this month we had interesting lectures by 3MR and 3YK on their recent visits to Tasmania, and the epidiascope proved its stuff with the photographs. We hope to have plenty more of these lectures at our meetings in the future so that they will provide even more interest than they have done in the past. Anyhow, here's the news of the month.

3KR.—Ken enjoyed the fb weekend at Ballarat convention. Very

impressed with 3AL's rig. Reckons "Snow" is a cow pulling respectable hams out of bed at 5 Ack-emma. Furthermore, Ballarat YL's not so hot!! Had fb qso with W6BKY from 3XD the eve he returned from convention.

3LX.—Teaching YL's to use the mike.

3LA.—Building new rx fitted with pair of magic eyes so that he can really "look" over band.

3ZY.—Still chasing that elusive DX, viz., an 809.

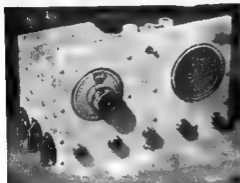
3ML.—Having moved to 94 Robinson's road, Hawthorn, is completely rebuilding, incorporating motor tuning in all stages.

3DF and 3TU.—Inactive temporarily following change of QRA.

3ET.—Glad to report satisfactory progress of present code class.

3EH.—Trying 14 mc fone.

3DP.—Having a go at 56 mc, but his rx won't perk.



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## PRICE'S RADIO SERVICE

(D. G. McINTYRE)

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3AH.—Fracturing xtals and looking forward to work on 14 and 28 mc.

3OM.—Been trying an 8JK beam vertical rotary, but not so good on dx. FB on local sigs though, cuts down QRM from S9 to S5. Gone back to center fed Zepp for DX, however.

3KQ.—Waiting for a bottle to go to 14 and 28 mc.

3IG.—Busy getting down to explore 14 mc. with T20.

3ZU.—Rebuilt for 14 mc. but also waiting for bottle.

3DM.—Finding DX good on 14 mc with a Jones super-het that is perking FB.

3IW.—What with contest QRM, etc., finding it hard to scratch a few Kc on DX bands.

3ZC.—Rather inactive on radio site. Needs a new receiver.

3ZD.—Got T20 final. Now FB 50 watts on 14 and 7 mc. Working usual W's and few other DX. Also quarter wave matching stub on 14 mc.

3QB.—Up in city and came to KP meeting. What about WAC on 7 mc, Jack?

3XJ.—56 mc. or thereabouts has been disturbed once again.

3WQ.—Thinking seriously about coming back again after trouble with heli, or is it QYL as well, O.M.?

3YP.—Has taken on double harness. Believe one who knows, "she is a peach." Good luck to you, Patto!

## U.H.F. SECTION NOTES. (By 3JO.)

### Big 56 Mc DX Effort. Sections Co-operate for Tests on May 21-22.

An ambitious scheme to put 56 mc signals across to Europe and North America has been suggested by 3KU. Briefly, it is intended to run a continuous 24-hour session on 56 mc and to rebroadcast this on 28 and 14 mcs, using beam antennae in all cases.

The two 56 mc stations will be located at Arthur's Seat and near Geelong, and will be using stable transmitters with about 30 or 40 watts input and beam antennae of various

types. 1 is intended to modulate these transmitters with recordings of suitable matter specially made for the occasion.

Present indications are that the transmitters will be, in one case, a push-pull resonant line oscillator and a three stage M.O.P.A. in the other, while in both cases the modulators will be class A.B. 42's. All this gear indicates a large consumption of power, but it is expected that this difficulty will be overcome by the members pooling their resources.

There will be plenty of operators available, and, to keep up some local interest, it is proposed to work some local 56 mc. DX with the normal low power portable gear, while the main transmissions are in progress. This should help to relieve the monotony any provide a useful link with the control stations in the city. The actual times of transmission will be from 1600 May 21 to 1600 May 22 Eastern Australian time, and, in addition, 3CZ will be using 100 watts and a W8JK beam to push some 56 mc C.W. across to the other side of the globe during the same period.

Further discussions of the details and arrangements of these tests were held at the last U.H.F. meeting, April 19, and at a special meeting of all interested at 3CZ's place on April 22, the details of which were received too late for publication in this month's notes.

Sunday evenings are still the most popular nights of the month for the 56 mc transmissions, and the multi-way contacts established bring to light many interesting items during the discussions.

3RI has been the most consistent station lately with canned music and duplex.

3XW has at last appeared after threatening to do so for some time, but is troubled with feedback.

3EM has reappeared after a silence of some weeks.

3VH tried to reappear after a much longer silence.

3PS experimenting with c.c. for 56 mc use.

3ED contacted here at last though only R 2/3.

3OT gives 3ED much better report.

3UX calling 3RI, but they just don't hear him.

Don't forget the May meeting, chaps; it's on the third Tuesday as usual—the 17th.

## S. W. PHONE SECTION (VK3ZX)

The newly formed short wave phone section held its second meeting on the 2nd March, 1938. Mr. H. K. Love, the sectional Chairman, gave a very interesting talk and discussion on the conducting of a modern phone station. The discussion after the talk proved very interesting, as many points of general interest were raised, and suggestions were put forward from all angles.

Several of the Victorian 20-metre phone station operators are trying to stations and the stations within the British Isles, other than the old method of continual working with American stations. Sunday morning round table conversations have been heard over the last two or three weeks, with more and more stations on each side going into the arrangement. The best times for working with Great Britain should be found out and the contacts maintained over a long period.

The stations active in Victoria so far are 3NP, 3ZB, 3XD, 3KU, 3ZX, and 3BN.

3ZB has been quite active on 10-metre phone during the last couple of weeks, and we understand that he has worked over 20 American stations in the daytime with this wave length.

3KU is in the midst of general constructional programme, and is going to use three final amplifiers, which can be switched for use on 10, 20 or 40 metres. This will be driven by a pair of 807's as push-pull frequency doubler. 3KU is still very enthusiastic about results he is getting from his 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  waves in phase aerial.

3XD has a novel way of overcoming an echo effect when he is using his condenser microphone, and was heard to state that he had his overcoat strung up behind the microphone to produce the required damping effect. As the weather has been rather wet in Melbourne lately, the idea seems quite appropriate.

3TC was seen recently in a large radio establishment buying up a kit of tubes for an eight tube super.

3QD is getting Q.R.O. with a 807 on 20 metre phone.

3NP has spent the last few days in trying to take the hum out of the TRF 10 metre receiver. He has also had a lot of B.C.L. from a D.O.L. who even at the R.I.'s request would not adhere to wave traps in our aerial. However, after much ado, everything is now in order.

3ZX is very pleased with the new rotatable beam aerial and reports that all continents were working on the first two weeks of operation.

## COUNTRY SECTION NOTES. (By VK3UK.)

The Country Section Convention held at Ballarat on the 2nd and 3rd proved very successful. Forty-two country and city hams attended and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. We were fortunate in having the zone officers of all three zones present so that the discussion was able to embrace all parts of the country. After the dinner on the Saturday evening and the toasts of the WIA and the Country Section, the office-bearers for the Northern Zone were elected. VK3TL was elected president and VK3HX secretary. An appreciation of the work of VK3EP for his work in acting as the relay station for the weekly broadcasts was made and also VK3HX was thanked for his kindness in donating the menu cards. Many suggestions and ideas were put forward by members in connection with the Country Section, as a result of which we hope to improve its value to country members considerably.

On the Sunday morning VK3AL had arranged trips to the Ballarat Power Station and also to the studios and station of 3BA.

## WESTERN ZONE. (VK3HG.)

Since the Ballarat convention last month interest in this district has grown appreciably, and all are looking forward to our own convention to be held later in the year. Several new members have swelled our numbers, and, although our zone is geographically the smallest of the coun-

## Amateur Radio

try sections, we hope, by keen interest and co-operation to at least hold our own. In this respect we want the fullest co-operation of all members in running schedules, enrolling new members, and helping in any other way possible. Until our convention, when we will officially appoint our president and secretary, I have been entrusted with the job of Zone Officer, and schedules with or letters from stations in the zone would be appreciated to pass on W.I.A. traffic and to collect news of your doings to help make these notes readable.

3FA.—Installing vibrator type power supply, which will be a big improvement on the old B batteries.

3TW.—Active on 40, 20 and 5 mx. Haven't heard if any results on 5 yet.

3JA.—Back on air using 500 volt genemotor on 6L6G. Has WAC from new QRA.

3PE.—Recently WAC phone. Reported to be leaving for England shortly.

3OW.—Still QRL selling BCL receivers.

3HG.—Waiting on new genemotor, the old one having given up the ghost. Getting good reports locally, using little BCL genemotor as power supply.

As for the rest of the gang very little is known, so let's have some dope, boys; always glad to schedule on 80 or 40.

### GIPPSLAND NOTES.

(By 3PR-3DG.)

3BR.—Has not been sighted or heard of, on way to VK4 this month, so progress reports are awaited.

3DG.—Arrived back from holidays with a host of ideas, but does not know just where to start putting some of them to work.

3EG.—Has not been heard of late, but presume working a little DX.

3GO.—Hope you have those bugs out of the 45's by this, Graham; have not heard you lately.

3IL.—Bob is on the job sure enough, and heard working a little 7p fone on 40 mx lately. Pleased to hear you again, O.M.

3JZ, 3JE.—Neither heard of late, but we are looking for sigs from town there, O.M.

3QB.—Jack rebuilding rx and going to try a pair of PP 809's in PA of rig.

3SS.—Keith active on 80 mx fone, vy fb quality since xtal mike installed.

3DI.—Jim vy YRL, but hopes to make time when 80 mx sparks again.

3EA.—By thesience the fish must be biting, O.M. If not, why?

3WE.—Up to usual standard on 80 mx, and can still get across to ZL.

3PR.—Not heard since trip to Ballarat. Was it too much for you, Ron. O.M.?

3XH.—Sorry we missed you last month, Stan. You will have to make more noise when on the air to attract attention.

3HZ-3XZ.—Must be looking for 5 mx sigs as not heard on other bands lately.

3LY.—Ron going on leave shortly, so we will have to wait until he returns before we hear anything from him.

## Queensland Division

Whoever has attended Institute Annual Meetings during the last few years, and was present at the eleventh annual meeting and dinner held at Griffith's Cafe on Friday, 1st April, must have been agreeably surprised at the excellent attendance. The function was the best attended and most enthusiastic of its kind yet held.

To the "old timers" who regularly pay their subs and manage to get along once a year, highlights of the meeting must have been the number of new and young faces in evidence; the three trophies annexed by 4HR; the assurance that the Radio Inspectors' Department is out to help rather than hinder the amateur; and the fact that evergreen 4AW secured more points than any other station in the transmitting competitions held during the 1937-38 season.

Mr. P. Kelly, in proposing the toast of the "Wireless Branch of the P.M.G.'s Department," caused much

## Amateur Radio

amusement by pointing out that there were still many pirates about, and possibly ex-pirates, present at the meeting.

"We have eyes and ears open for pirates," said Mr. G. Strohfeldt, who responded to the toast on behalf of the department. He stated that the policy of the Wireless Branch was not to hinder or harass the radio amateur but to help him.

The president (Mr. A. E. Walz) said the increase in the power limit to 50 watts and the formation of a vigilance committee to police amateur bands had been progressive steps during the year. Objections had been raised in some quarters regarding the committee's activities, but the purpose was to improve general operation; and it was for all to help. Country members had found the zone system throughout the State satisfactory and were eager for its revival. It was hoped that close contests with the respective zones would be regularly maintained in the near future.

The office-bearers for the year were elected as follow:—President, Mr. A. E. Walz (4AW); treasurer, Mr. W. Chitham (4UU); secretary, Mr. R. Thorley (4RT); council, Messrs. G. Bates (4UR), F. Luback (4RF), C. Sharland (4SD), P. Hubsher (4UL), A. Guildford (4AP).

### GENERAL NOTES.

A two half waves in phase antenna system is radiating very effectively for 4UR. An R9 report from Africa and over 350 W stations in the recent tests give some idea of what Jack's rig is doing these days.

4HR is inclined to be secretive about 10 mx. What times are the Europeans coming through Tibby? Come on, give the boys some news.

Well, its happened at last, 4GK will be in a city QRA by the time these notes are in print. An excellent TX and RX, a sound knowledge of conditions, and what to most of us is a dream location, made Mac the toughest VK4 to beat in DX competitions. It will be interesting to see how 4GK fares at 9th aca, his new Q.R.A.

Here's a tip for country visitors. If you want to see a really neat looking rig, pay a visit to 4UL's shack. Paul is in the engineering

business and certainly knows how to build.

4EL, 4RF and 4SD seem to have a happy time with the 20 mx dx.

4rB's phone, like a well known brand of whisky, seems to improve with age. What has happened to 4GU, Fred? Can't you get him on again?

Here's a chance to work VK9. VK9VG and 9DN are new members of the Institute and on the lookout for contacts. Hook for both on 20mx.

4DN is a "medico" operator and is stationed at Tara. Give him a shout, boys.

Welcome to the ranks 4XO. Hope the 42's perk o.k.

4RT's objective is dx on 20mx. He hopes to have a 809 in operation soon.

VK4HR, a visitor from British Solomon Islands, was kept busy answering questions at the annual dinner.

Another newcomer on the air is 4QK, Reg Kerr. If you operate as well as brother 4LK you'll do o.m.

4ER, Eric Riley, now stationed at Laidley, would like any of the gang to look him up when passing.

Five metre enthusiasts note! Cliff Gold, 4CG, of Toowoomba, is anxious for more five metre skeds. What about it?

4PL is putting out some good phone.

4PH, Australia's oldest ham, turned up for the annual dinner. If you are not sure about a VK QRA, 4PH is the person to see.

4JX can't have much time to himself these days. Understand 4KH has kidded him into building a big "super." If it's as good as 4UL's Bill should be a happy ham.

4XY.—Using 4.8 watts. Hopes to be on wid 30 watts shortly es using new modulator. 1st op is named Lloyd es 2nd op is called George. Good combination — Lloyd George. Hi!

4HA.—Has some vy fb dope on a "rannie to suit any bottle. Lets hr all abt it, Harry.

4RS.—Staged a comeback on 40 using suppressor modulation.

4LC.—Has QSL'ed from Bundaberg to Proserpine. Hoping to be on 'one in the near future.

4UX. Has been named "Aluminium Claude" for obvious reasons.

## Amateur Radio

(That's not fair, Bob, but I'll put it 'n, hi!) Also proposed as a member of the Ragchewers Club.

4RP. — Strong hr on CW, but I hve rather ruff note, O.M.

4AB.—Is very active on 40 wid nice fone and R9 sig. QSYing to Cunnamulla shortly for holidays.

4RM, 4PC, 4WB and 4CY had an 'b YSO recently. At the same time 4UX was hooked up wid another lineup. One way of getting rid of QRM. Call em in, hi!

Stan Wright, Harry Bearness and Less Mallinson, Mackay members of the DX Club, intend reporting to all fone stations they hr and sending rds. FB indeed, chaps.

VK2 hams advice condx on 10 mx vy fb. 2NY worked 12 stations in 10 minutes, European stations rocking in on 20. G2NA has a reg sked wid 7 a.m. every morning. Hrd hr at R8.

In a recent QSO (round table), 4WG was awarded the "Grand Order" of the Annanias Club, hi! He has two pet crocs called Claude es Mary (hope thats no reflection on the scribe, O.M.) and we couldn't compete against him, hi!

4PC.—Also an authority on crocodiles. Believe ur thinking of following 4WG's example and loaning ur crocs to farmers, hi! Wally states that Claude es Mary wud be fb pulling a plow, but they tend to be out of phase, hi! hi!

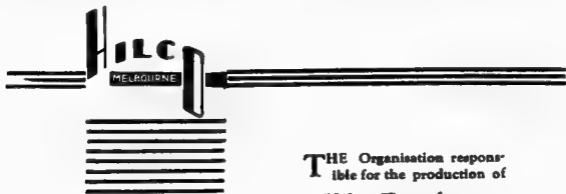
4EA.—Is the proud owner of a big blue (very dark blue) sedan, and from what our receiver tells us it is called "the hearse." You want to keep things like that under ur hat, hi!

4LK.—Back on 40, as is also brother Roy. Both wid fb sigs.

4RX.—Very sad bereavement at this station recently. We believe you eventually sold "the battleship." Never mind, Ron, think of the new owner having to hold the wheels on and drive at the same time.

Bundaberg hams appear nw and then on 40. 4SH and 4JJ both R8 hr at 4UX. Rigs are identical as well.

Scribe (4UX) recently had the rig on 40, and hoping it was on 80 and the rx on 80, calling CQ ZL.



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## Station Description

(By VK5YL)

The original rig at 5YL was a single stage E.C. 42, later enlarged to two stages with a 6L6 as P.A. These were of breadboard construction and gave reasonably good results on the low power used. Only 200 volts D.C. is available, so power is limited. Heaters presented quite a problem, as with more than one tube 6-volt accumulators are impracticable, so in the present rig and future ones it has been overcome by wiring all heaters and a dropping resistor in series, and using the mains with a voltmeter to keep a check on the voltage fluctuations.

The latest transmitter consists of a 38 osc., either e.c. or c.c. as desired at will, capacity coupled to a 42, constructed on aluminium, with all plug-in coils and interchangeable final tank coil. A pair of 42's will eventually be used in the final, these

tubes being proved excellent on low voltage.

The antenna, formerly a half-wave Zepp, has been replaced by a doublet, which is used for both transmitter and receiver.

Activities are always on 40 metres though an occasional QSY has been made to 5 metres.

D.X. holds little attraction for the fair op., who likes a pleasant rag-chew with a VK or ZL in preference to hooking some far distant station, exchanging reports and signing off immediately.

Qra here—Betty Geisel, Charles street, Murray Bridge, S.A.

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### VK3KU SAYS:

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## South Australian Division

(By VK5KL)

These notes are written at Murray Bridge, where 5BU, 5WW, Joe McAllister and myself are to operate portable 5 metre gear to time the Outboard Motor Boat speed trials during the Easter holidays.

The main item of interest this month is the achievement of Mr. Maurice Phillips (VK5BU) being heard in New Zealand on 5-metre C.W.

At a time when 10 metre skip was short, Maurice was advised by 5RT to try on five, and during this time he was heard by ZL4DQ on a 7 tube S.S. super at RST 458. The rig used is a 6A6 osc. 6L6 doubler to ten and a 807 doubler to five, with 18 watts input. This is a wonderful effort and certainly will boost 5 metre activity.

On 20 metre the band has been a bedlam, what with the Yank test on and all the VK stations striving to pile up a score, the QRM has been terrific at the peak periods. Ten metres also was good, and those stations that used this band were able to add more to their tally. The number of R6 stations on this band is on the increase, and two stations from India are VU2FV and VU7AR.

New members to the Institute include many country chaps, and it is pleasing to note the steady increase in the country membership during the last year.

The following are the calls of the new country members:—VK5's BF, BG, KJ, MP and YL.

Reg Anthony (VK5CM) is now residing amongst the northern gang in Prospect. Two stations heard on 40 metres Sunday mornings on the high freq. and of band using push to talk and mumbling weird and wonderful

words were 5RT and 5QR playing chess, so don't be alarmed next time you hear them. No trouble to some of the boys!

They tell me 5TR was so intent looking at his rig squatting down on his haunches, that he overbalanced and put his hands across 3000. You'll have to be more careful, Ralph.

Next month we will have a new council to rule us, so until then cheerio!

### GREY ZONE.

(By VK5WG)

Well, here we are right upon Easter, and winter conditions will soon be with us. DX is improving rapidly, and good contacts may be had on 7, 14 and 28 mc.

The 3.5 mc band has opened up early this year, and ZL's are easily contacted.

5FB.—Frank is back from Sydney, and is working ZL's on fone and C.W. on 80, sometimes with 1½ watts from a genemotor, and at other times 8-10 watts from a petrol engine driven D.C. generator.

5LC.—Les is not so active just now. Busy on the farm.

5LG.—Leith is stilling working DX, but is handicapped through lack of A.C. on Sundays.

5KJ.—Working ZL's and VK's on 80 mx with 10 watts of power. George is a new member of the W.I.A. Welcome to the Gang, O.M.!

5WG.—Also has the 80 mx complex.

5NW.—Ditto, but very busy.

5AT.—Gone into retirement?

5BK.—Jack is heard occasionally

5HR.—Bill busy with studies. Best of luck, O.M.

5TL.—Tom can be heard working 5JT regularly on sked.

5MP and 5YM—Two more new members. Very pleased to have you with us, O.M's.

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Mr. F. Trembath, of Port Augusta, has also joined up, and is pegging away for his ticket. Likewise, Mr. Col. Bottrall, of Port Pirie. Stick to it, chaps.

It has been suggested that in view of the amount of time he spends in a certain northern town, VK2DG should join up as a South Australian country member!

That's the lot for this month, chaps, so cheerio and 73.

Wally Govan, VK5WG.

### WAKEFIELD ZONE.

VK5HS.—Is the call sign of Mr. Wally Scott, of Clare. How about letting me know something of your rig and activities, Wally, O.B.?

5LR.—Jack heard again recently putting out A1 quality fone on 40 mx.

Mr. Lance Catford.—Hope to be able to announce your call-sign soon, O.M. Stick to it! The boys want to hear you.

BERS195.—Yes, that's right, Eric Trebilcock. Now located at Powell Creek, Northern Territory, and is going to concentrate on reception of U.H.F. sigs. Will be pleased to report on your 5 and 10 mx efforts. Eric pounds the brass all day in the telegraph station, and by way of relaxation listens to other fellows' ether-busting all through the night.

5RE.—Yours truly is the busiest man in the world at present. Believe me, the life of a fruitgrower is not all beer and skittles. Radio has to be neglected, and each little bunch of grapes nursed with loving care. However, I guess I'll find my way into the shack again before long. Cheerio till next month.

Hobby.

### BARKER ZONE.

(By VK5GW.)

Three new members to introduce this month, and to each we extend a very hearty welcome. They are:—

5YL.—Betty Geisel, of Charles street, Murray Bridge, the only YL licence holder in South Australia. Not a mere "fone merchant," but enjoys a C.W. QSO at any time.

5BF.—Frank Miller, Eleanor Ter., Murray Bridge. Operator at a "B" class station there. Frank is always to be heard with good telephony on 40 mx on Sundays. Also very successful on 20 mx.

5BG.—Bob Grundy, Edward street, Murray Bridge. Bob has not had his ticket very long, but is making himself known on the air. Will be applying for a "fone" permit before long.

5XR.—Active again. Good fone reported from the city.

5CJ, 5BN and 5TW.—Still figure in the call book, but I believe have not been busy lately.

Cheerio and good DX.

George.

## Tasmanian Division

(By 7YL.)

The monthly meeting of this division of the Institute was held in the Y.M.C.A. rooms on the 29th March. The meeting was held somewhat earlier than usual in order that VK7JH, who was in Hobart for a few days, could give a lecture on our power station at Waddamana. This talk was exceptionally interesting, and enjoyed by all present. Hams visiting Tasmania should call on 7JH, who would be only too pleased to show them over the works. On the same evening we were extremely sorry to farewell Mr. E. J. G. Bowden, who for many years has been deputy R.I. All members felt the loss deeply, and our president thanked Mr. Bowden on behalf of all for his untiring interest and service. We also met our new R.I., Mr. Conry, for the first time. He hails from VK3, and we believe is quite an active ham. Mr. Conry spoke only for a few minutes, but his few words left a deep impression, and we are looking forward to many pleasant contacts in the future.

### Scandal.

Most of the Southern gang have been very lazy the last month or so, and little has been heard of them on either 20 or 40 mx. The excuses are numerous.

7KV.—Too busy collecting Easter poultry at local cricket matches. The Australian team went away too soon, Keith.

7CT.—Did someone hear Terry talking about diamonds? I thought so. Evidently 7CT is very QYL.

# Amateur Radio

7JB.—Too busy preparing to visit Sydney. Heard muttering dark things about dress suits and elusive studs.

7YL.—Very much overworked. (Here the excuses end).

7DH.—At least on once a week to keep traffic skeds. 3MR says you are very punctual, Dave.

7CM.—Most active ham down South. Can be heard almost any night DXing. Wait till the German listeners' cards begin rolling in, Charlie, then you will have to engage a secretary to answer the qsl's.

7LH.—Simply bursting with enthusiasm and badly wanted something to do for the Institute, so was made Social Organiser, and intends to have some picture shows with the aid of 7AL and a projector. We were very happy to see 3TL and 2AT who were over here on brief visits during last month. Owing to other engagements were unable to see all the shacks. I believe Treb (3TL) has acquired a liking for night hiking.

Our Secretary is now as "happy as Larry," having finalised all matters dealing with the Convention and having safely despatched Buck per s.s. Zealandia.

7RK has kindly supplied the news from the North. Many thanks, Ray.

7KR.—Rebuilding with 809 in final, driven by 53 and 6L6. Super going very nice.

7LZ.—Also rebuilding to 53, 6L6 and an T20.

7QZ.—Working lots of DX with numerous watts; one (or two?) T55's in final. Has worked over 50 countries.

7BQ.—Still grinding out records to an appreciative public on the Sabbath.

7HY.—Seems to have forsaken ham radio of late, and can be found doing big business in radio shop in George street.

7AB.—Recuperating after I.R.E. test; not been heard for quite a while. (Found part of stop press news in "Mercury" filled with the recent doings of 7AB). Did you see it, Doug?

7CJ.—Not on at all these days. QYL, I suppose.

Well, that is about all this month. Would very much appreciate news from N.W. coast members.

73's. Joy.

## Hamads

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